



What's Happening

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2017

GOOD QUESTIONS

(trustees@mluc.org)

As a new Trustee, I felt nervous about being asked a “Board” question. I worried it would be obvious I did not know what I was doing! By the time it happened, I felt okay. As a newbie, I feel I’ve asked some dumb questions, but I’ve been reassured there is no such thing. Thank goodness!

Before serving I had never come to a board meeting or asked questions about our governance or operations. So I’ve learned a lot about MLUC, but also about what it means to be engaged in and committed to a community. About how important it is to ask questions, listen, think, understand others, and understand my role and responsibility.

Obviously, each year we need new board members. But we need more than that. We need the “dumb” questions, questions that seek understanding, questions that challenge and change all of our perspectives. The question is...who is asking?

I have this fantasy of coming to a board meeting and finding the room so packed with members that I can hardly find a seat! We did have a member come to our January meeting, and it was great! It’s one way you can learn what’s going on, and we welcome you. We need you. We need all the questions of the curious—to learn and to teach each other. As our mission says, we transform Together.



BUILDING A BEAUTIFUL ECONOMY FOR COMMUNITY WEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Sunday March 5, at 12:30 p.m.

Judy Wicks will visit MLUC for a talk, book signing, and brown bag lunch! Judy is an author, international activist, entrepreneur, and founder of Philadelphia's iconic White Dog Cafe, which became a pioneer in the farm to table movement and a model in sustainable business practices. Building on her experience at Standing Rock and her career as a socially and environmentally-minded entrepreneur, Judy will discuss how we can build a values-based regional economy that protects our water, air, and land for future generations, creates meaningful jobs, increases equality, and builds healthy and joyful community life. Proceeds benefit local foster children. Learn more and register at: tinyurl.com/hbaldgy.

JUBILEE: LEARNING TOGETHER ABOUT SYSTEMIC RACISM

March 3-5, at MLUC, hosted by the Greater Philly UU Cluster

Are you ready to take a leading role to nurture your congregation’s multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents? Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? This workshop helps participants to understand what is involved in fostering a multicultural community and working against racism in all of its forms. The training includes presentations, discussions, videos, exercises, small group work, worship, and shared meals. All are welcome. Limit of 40 participants. Register: greaterphillyuu.org

*Together,
We Transform Lives
through
Love, Service, and Our
Welcoming Faith.*

WHO WE ARE

Main Line Unitarian Church is a diverse and caring religious community engaged in a liberating ministry of spiritual growth, human compassion, and universal justice.

At our church we embrace all people, regardless of age, race, ability, politics, financial situation, or sexual orientation; encourage and nurture every individual in his or her own search for meaning in life; and commit to serve local and world communities in promoting peace, social justice, and responsible stewardship of the earth.



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MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Resistance and Resilience in Interesting Times

There is a Chinese saying: "May you live in interesting times." Ironically, though it appears to be a blessing, it is actually a curse. Taken at its intended meaning, we are indeed living in interesting times since the election. Never in my lifetime have abuses of power and assaults on civil liberties been so pronounced.

Since I like alliteration, I believe these times call for resistance and resilience. Fortunately, we have a long, storied UU history of resistance to violations of human rights and dignity from which we may draw inspiration. As Minister, I will be encouraging church members and social action groups to advocate on behalf of our UU principles in the public square by setting an example from the pulpit and with my own personal involvement and by chairing the Social Action Leadership Team (SALT).



Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
Senior Minister

With so many civil rights violations occurring all at once, the challenge for us organizationally will be to coordinate our efforts and channel our energy in causes that invigorate and not enervate. The spiritual challenge will be to reflect on how our social action transforms us as individuals, as well as how it builds community, and not focus simply on the transformation of others. This inward-outward focus of social action is what distinguishes religious social action from political social action.

Another challenge I intend to address is to insist that our social action be focused on moral issues, not partisan political issues. What we are resisting is not a particular candidate, party, or electoral outcome; we are resisting the degradation of human rights and dignity.

The other "R" informing our social action is resilience. Resistance without resilience will inevitably lead to burnout, despondency, and despair. We do not need a crystal ball to foresee that we are in this fight for the long haul. What will keep us resilient in our resistance is nurturing our souls with spiritual practices, such as meditation, yoga, small groups, book discussions (like the ones on white privilege), and consciousness-raising films (like the black history movie series). As Minister, I will coordinate these efforts, giving particular attention to our Small Group Ministry because it offers the best opportunity to experience community with depth and meaning. This is what distinguishes religious community from membership in secular clubs and organizations.

We will also cultivate our resilience by cultivating our sense of community through such activities as the annual auction, the Holiday Workshop, the Lecture Luncheon, play readings, and our summer shindig, which moves this year for the first time from Camp Tockwoh to Camp Canadensis in the Poconos. We will also revive our multigenerational potlucks, which has already been initiated by new member, Trish Brandon. She and our Membership Coordinator hope to form a Social Events Committee to make such gatherings more organizationally sponsored and not dependent on the efforts of a single individual.

Some may regard fellowship activities as superficial and irrelevant to church, but such a narrow view of congregational life misses the importance of establishing connections and building community. The fact is that our spirituality thrives in community and withers in isolation. During these interesting times, we need all the support we can get.

-Neal

RETIRED MEN'S LUNCHEON CHANGE

The Retired Men's Group is changing the format of the monthly luncheon. It is now open to all members and friends of the congregation. We offer socialization, a fine meal at a bargain price, and an interesting program. Luncheons are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May.

REQUEST FOR SMALL GROUP MINISTRY INSIGHTS

Are you a member of Small Group Ministry and have an interesting, illuminating, or humorous life insight to share since joining the SGM program? If so, please send it to Stephen Hughes (sci1000@comcast.net). Your submission will be edited, sent to you for approval, and then submitted to church staff for inclusion in mluc.org's SGM Insights series. (Submissions should be strictly individual and should **not** involve personal information about any other SGM member.) 200-600 words

"That is the real spiritual awakening - when something emerges from within you that is deeper than who you thought you were." - Eckhart Tolle

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

MARCH 5: PASTOR INGQVIST AND OTHER SELFLESS SERVANTS

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: Liz Bligan, mezzo-soprano

We will visit Lake Wobegon to observe the irresponsibility of being too responsible for others.

MARCH 12: CULTIVATING PEACE OF MIND

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: Deborah Reeder, cello

This sermon is more of a mini-workshop on meditation (for amateur meditators, like me). Together, we will experience Buddhist meditations of mindfulness, equanimity, and loving-kindness.

MARCH 19

Maria McCabe

Music: MLUC Choir

MARCH 26: IS RELIGION EVIL?

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: TBA

Wars. Crusades. Suicide bombers. Abortion clinic bombers. Terrorism. Ku Klux Klan lynchings. ISIS beheadings. Boko Haram kidnappings. So much of the violence in our world is motivated and justified by religion. It makes you wonder: Is religion evil?

UUA PRESIDENTIAL FORUM LIVE-STREAMED TO MLUC

Saturday, April 1, 9:00 a.m.

This June at the UUA General Assembly, we will elect a new president of the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association). There are three excellent candidates for this position: The Rev. Alison Miller, the Rev. Jeanne Pupke, and the Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray. On April 1, they will participate in a discussion that will be livestreamed to our Main Meeting Room.



Our doors will open at 9:00 a.m. There will be coffee and light breakfast foods. The forum begins at 10:00 a.m. We'll stay on for a discussion of the candidates, voting procedures, attending General Assembly in New Orleans this year as a delegate, and more. In addition, we will invite members of the Greater Philly UU Cluster. This is a great chance to meet other local UUs and make a connection to the work of our denomination.

PLEDGE SUNDAY!

Sunday, April 2 will be an all-church celebration of our community with lunch, live music, a bounce house, and more. This will also be our one-day pledge campaign. If you haven't made your pledge by April 2, please bring it with you, in a sealed envelope, drop it in the big basket, and get an "I pledged!" sticker.

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Will Quay
Assistant Custodian

MEDICARE AND YOU: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

If you are like me, you need help understanding health insurance. If you are approaching the age when you need to enroll in Medicare, and want to understand what choices you have in selecting Medicare options, you are invited to attend a brief program here at MLUC on Sunday, April 16 following the 11:00 a.m. service's coffee hour. MLUC member, John Maxwell is a licensed insurance agent who will offer a free session to help you understand and navigate this important decision. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about Medicare in the relaxed setting of your own faith community. This will not be a sales pitch and will be a painless way to examine this subject among friends.

I hope you will take advantage of John's generous offer and sign up for this brief, useful program. Please RSVP to jan@mluc.org if you are able to participate.



Jan Cauffman
Parish Nurse

LECTURE LUNCHEON (FORMERLY KNOWN AS RETIRED MEN'S LUNCHEON)

Wednesday, March 8, refreshments at 11:30, luncheon at noon

Ron Rose will speak on the Cosmos at this month's lecture. Men and women of all ages are invited. \$10.00 per person. RSVP to Gene Ramsbottom (earamsbottom@gmail.com).

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING

Sunday, March 12, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the McGinness Room, lunch provided

Are you concerned about our representation in Harrisburg and Washington DC, but don't know what to do about it? Come to our Legislative Advocacy Workshop. Learn how to lobby, visit your legislator, write letters, and make phone calls as a UU. We will learn how to use this training and discuss and plan opportunities for doing so. Let's be the congregation known for putting its values into action.



MLUC RECEIVES 16TH-CENTURY MAP OF TRANSYLVANIA

The Partner Church Committee is pleased to announce that long-time MLUC member John Smith is donating a 16th-century map of Transylvania to the church. John will present the map during both services March 12. The Partner Church Committee will host a map acceptance celebration during coffee hour after each service. The map will be on display during the celebrations.

The map of Transylvania was made in 1566 and published by a famous mapmaker and publisher of maps named Abraham Ortelius (1528–1598). It appeared in a collection of maps that Ortelius published under the title *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. John explains: "As published, this collection is generally regarded as constituting the first atlas, in the sense that it was uniformly sized and systematically presented. I bought the map as a single map from a dealer in Philadelphia, Ursula Hobson. It is one of the earliest that I acquired and it has been in my collection for about 20 years."

The map precedes by just 2 years the issuance of the Edict of Torda by the Transylvanian Diet in 1568. That edict was the first guarantee of religious freedom in Europe. "So this map," John points out, "was made at roughly the same time that Unitarianism began and covers the very ground in which this occurred." Though the village of Várfalva, home of our Unitarian partner church, is too small to appear on the map, Torda and Kolozsvár, the city where students from Várfalva attend high school, do appear.

LABYRINTH WALKS

First Tuesdays at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

The Middleton Center is now offering labyrinth walks. Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice used by many different faiths. Your walk may offer clarity for life direction, healing of grief, identification of a turning point, or a calming of noise from daily demands. Intentional walking allows the labyrinth to be a prayerful tool to bring awareness to your questions and concerns. They are held in Congregational Hall from 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. with guided walks from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on March 7, April 4, and May 2. Learn more at www.bmpc.org/programs/the-middleton-center

KAMMERMUSIK CONCERT

Sunday, March 26, at 3:00 p.m.

Cellist Deborah Reeder, Director of Kammermusik Main Line, has announced a spring concert at MLUC. She'll be joined by Music Director and pianist, Dr. Vincent Craig, and soprano, Candice Craig for a program of sonatas and vocal music. We hope to see you there! (610) 664-0346 philtrio@aol.com

TRY UUMAC THIS SUMMER!

Need an escape from the same old thing this summer? Come to UUMAC for a community experience like no other, with UUs from neighboring Mid-Atlantic states. Join fun and activities for all ages and interests on a beautiful university campus outside Philadelphia. This year, we'll explore the theme, "Across Time, Across Generations" in our worship and conversation. Choose from a range of workshops or just kick back and relax. For more information or to register, visit www.uumac.org.



INSIGHT BOOK GROUP

On March 16 we'll discuss *Moonglow*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon. It's a novelist's personal account of the lasting effects of WW2 in his broken family. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at MLUC. Questions? Email jricka@verizon.net.

SPRING PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION ON MAY 6

If you've been visiting MLUC for the last few months, or are just beginning to attend services on Sundays, please make note of the next Pathway to Membership Orientation date: May 6. It's a couple months away, but when the warmer weather arrives time starts going faster and schedules fill up quickly. We hope this orientation will help those new to the church learn more about the community and get to know others on the membership path.

The orientation runs from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The schedule includes time with Rev. Jones, who will talk about UU history, and a session to explore the ways the work of the church is linked to its mission: Social Action, Pathway of Spiritual Maturity, Religious Education, volunteering, pledging, etc.

We'll go on a Talk and Tour of the building and hear about some of MLUC's rich history and future plans, as well as take part in a sample Small Group Ministry session. Participants will have the opportunity to get to know each other in addition to the staff and volunteer leadership in the church. For those ready to join, there will be an opportunity to do so on May 21.

Breakfast and lunch will be served. Childcare is available upon request by May 1. For more information or to register, please contact me (jessica@mluc.org). Hope to see you there!



Jessica Hirsch Lynn
Membership Coordinator

CALLING ALL FORKS!

Do you have spare silverware? The church kitchen could use more forks, spoons, and knives. If you have any to spare please drop them off in the kitchen at church. Thank you!



Psssst! ... Making Your Annual Pledge is Easier Than Ever!

Visit mluc.org/support-your-church, fill out a quick form, and follow the instructions based on your preferred payment method. If you've already pledged, manage your payments/information anytime from tinyurl.com/mlucpayments.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Painter Alice Dustin won the prestigious Artists Equity award for a solo show at MLUC in a juried show last spring at the Baker Gallery at West Chester University. She is an oil painter who delights in color and the way oil paint can be used with a brush. Leigh Gustafson of Artists' House Gallery said Alice's "enthusiasm comes out of her brush stroke." She is known for her impressionistic style, a natural result of alla prima painting, done in or outdoors in response to the subject at hand.



"On my journey as a painter I have mostly stayed within the bounds of traditional subject matter, the still life, the landscape, and the figure. This show is a collection of both still life and land/seascape paintings where on occasion, I delve ever so slightly into the abstract. This has been by simplification of shape, by introducing geometric shapes into otherwise realistic depictions, and by imposing some kind of filter over a direct response. Sometimes, though, I am drawn into a painting so spontaneously that no filter or other concern enters my mind. This show is a mix of recent works that illustrate both of these paths that are drawing me in. Overarching all of this work is my love of color, illusion, and brushstrokes."

"I am happy to share my work at MLUC, where my connection goes back many years. Though never a member, I was a youth group leader here. This came about because of our daughter's meaningful experience as a youth group member. As a thank you to the church, I led the group for two years after that," she said.

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Alice's exhibit will be shown from March 5 through April 16. There will be a reception on March 12 in the Fireside Room from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. All are invited.

21ST CENTURY LEADERSHIP RESET

Saturday, March 25, 9:00 a.m. to Noon (8:30 Meet and Greet), at the UU Church of Delaware County in Media, PA

UU congregational life is changing at lightning speed. How we recruit, train, and support leaders requires new thinking and new practices. On this morning, the Greater Philly Cluster will host a training led by Patricia Hall Infante of the Central East Regional staff. This training is especially helpful for Nominating Committee and Board members. Register online by March 15 at: www.greaterphillyuu.org/events/21st-century-leadership-reset.

WANNA HOST A POTLUCK?

MLUCers enjoyed fun, fellowship, and delicious food at the all-church potluck on February 3. There has been a loud cry for more potlucks! If your group or committee is interested in sponsoring a potluck, please talk with Trish Brandon (trishbrandon3@gmail.com) or by phone, as listed in the church directory. The time commitment is only about 2 hours in addition to enjoying a meal. Ask recent SGM member hosts how easy and fun it was to sponsor the February potluck: Susan Milles, Tom Farr, Caryn Kayser, Sabine Rehm, Tara Eames, Crystal Mottur-Pilson, Heather Callahan, Anita Weeks, Kathy Hersh, Rob Becker.



If MLUC is like family to you, please include it in your will. Bequests of all sizes will support the church community and its work on behalf of justice, equity, compassion, religious freedom, and spiritual growth. For more information on planned giving, email endowment@mluc.org

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We extend our appreciation to ...

Everyone who decided on January 21 not to remain silent or on the sidelines in the face of looming threats to the freedom and safety of our most vulnerable neighbors - but to stand up and speak for the worth and dignity of all persons by participating in the Women's March on Washington and Philadelphia.

Everyone who made possible the signing of a lease with St. David's Nursery School on January 27 to make MLUC their new home: our Nursery School Exploratory Committee, **Sue Drummond, Bridget Wiedeman, Barbara Colton, Tiffany Neiman, Susan Milles, and Rob Becker**; our Capital Campaign Implementation Team, **David VanOcker and Julia Hurle**; our Interim Administrator, **Bruce Pappas**; our Executive Director, **Rich Fritzson**; and our Treasurer, **Carl Stevens**. The Nursery School opens on September 1.

Carl Zweben, for donating an easel to the church in memory of his wife Diane.

The Small Group Ministry group of **Trish Brandon, Susan Milles, Tom Farr, Sabine Rehm, Tara Eames, Christel Pilson, Heather Callahan, Caryn Kayser, Anita Weeks, Kathy Hersch, and Rob Becker** for hosting Friday night's potluck dinner here at the church. More than 70 members attended.

Kim Vanderburg for designing the "Welcome" worship arts on the stage of the Main Meeting Room. The fabric colors of various skin tones represent the diversity of the human family, honoring "our welcoming faith" from our mission statement.

Mary Kane, who, in addition to helping to arrange our monthly art exhibits in the Fireside Room, has also adorned our church office and the men's and women's restrooms with her artwork.

Everyone who contributed to the Philly Cluster of UU congregations advertising campaign – 10 large signs at newsstands around the city advertising Unitarian Universalism with the tagline "Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World."

Everyone who has contributed to our Capital Campaign, allowing us to collect \$2 million thus far.

Martiena Evans for organizing our two-part film series for Black History Month, entitled "Many Rivers to Cross."

Hiro Nishikawa for reminding us of the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which established internment camps for Japanese Americans during World War II. Hiro's own family was incarcerated in a camp in Poston, Arizona.

We extend our congratulations to ...

Julia MacDonald, who has been accepted into a program called Projects Abroad, which in September will take her to Senegal for 6 months, where she will help build schools and houses.

John Smith, who gave a presentation at the Wayne Art Center on January 19 of how Philadelphia became the only World Heritage City in the country and of the cultural and economic opportunities this designation will bring to Philly and the surrounding area, including the Main Line.

Andy Back, Pam Kosty's husband, who had a presentation and book-signing on February 4 at the Haverford Library for his book, *Harcum College: A Centennial History*, which reflects on the history of not only the college, but of the Main Line and women's education in the 20th century.

HARRY AND UU CLASS PROJECT

The 4th-5th graders recently put together amazing vegetarian mason jar soup kits as part of their social justice activities to learn more about illness. To complete their efforts, they will sell these jars for \$5 during coffee hours on March 5. Funds will be donated to Alex's Lemonade Stand for childhood cancer. Lemonade will also be available for a donation of your choice.





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WHAT'S HAPPENING

The newsletter of Main Line Unitarian Church is published 12 times a year. Submissions of 225 words or fewer are due on **March 10** for the April issue. Submit material to **news@mluc.org**. To learn more about communications at MLUC, contact Brianna Johnson (brianna@mluc.org).

ON THE WEB

The complete MLUC calendar of events is online at www.mluc.org. Members can click the front page icon to request a room for their meeting or event.

